of Rs. 9,000 made under 'Contribution to Municipalities', of which a sum of Rs. 5,000 is for Chittur-Tattamangalam and the balance of Rs. 4,000 is distributed equally between Ernakulam and Trichur.

Public Works Department.—I now come to the Public Works Department which consists of Public Works 'Proper' or 'Civil Engineering' and 'Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.' Under 'Civil Engineering' we have provided a sum of Rs. 10,57,559 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 9,45,297 i. e., more than a lakh of rupees in excess, while 'Mechanical and Electrical Engineering' gets an allotment of Rs. 2,35,833. The increase under 'Civil Engineering' is chiefly due to the enhanced provisions under 'Communications' and 'Buildings.' The opening of the Cochin-Alleppy road, opening of a road to the Nelliampaties, opening of a road from Mala to Adur, construction of the Panamkutti bridge and another bridge north of Karuvannur are some of the major communication works proposed to be undertaken next year while on the building side, we have made provisions for the Leper Asylum building at Adur, for the construction of a paying ward in the General Hospital, construction of nurses' quarters, construction of a Commercial class in the G. T. School and also balance provisions for the construction of the G. T. School, Trichur and Girls' High School, Ernakulam, already going on. Coming to 'Irrigation', it may perhaps be adversely commented that we have only made less provision than that of the revised estimate when the cry everywhere is 'Irrigation, more irrigation and yet more irrigation', the budget estimate for 1103 coming only to Rs. 1,21,093 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 1,50,281. As already explained by me last year, Government fully recognise the primary importance of irrigation in an agricultural State like ours, and they are no whit behind any Member of this House in their desire for extending the facilities for irrigation. But it is their earnest desire to take stock of the present situation before they launch on any big schemes, to make a careful survey of the whole problem and lay out a programme of irrigation works which may be taken up year after year as funds permit. They propose to appoint a special Engineer for this purpose with the necessary staff, etc. Hence the provision of Rs. 16,000 for investigating irrigation projects now provided for. They have also made ample provision for the improvement of existing irrigation facilities.

Turning to 'Mechanical Engineering', I have nothing to remark, the details of the several provisions having already been worked out in the Appendix. Some of the costly works

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for next year are the water supply schemes to Nemmara and Mattancheri, about which there can be no difference of opinion in this House, purchase of machinery for the Chowwara Head Works and the electric installations proposed for the General Hospital and Trichur Puthiya Kovilagom.

Scientific, etc., Departments.—As against the revised estimate of Rs. 90,100, the budget estimate is fixed at Rs. 1,11,900 or Rs. 21,800 in excess, out of which the increase under Industries Department alone comes to Rs. 13,000 in round figures on account of the lump provision for opening of new schools, larger grants to aided schools and additional provisions for scholarships.

With the appointment of a full-timed Archaeologist the activities of the Archaeological Department are bound to increase, and hence a larger provision of Rs. 3,867 has been made for next year as against the revised estimate of Rs. 1,118.

Under 'Economic Development Committee' a provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for next year.

Miscellaneous.—I now come to the last budget head for grants, viz., 'Miscellaneous' under which we have provided Rs. 1,68,300 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 45,700. The Special Finance Committee recommended in one of their communications to the Government that, as the report of the Committee was not likely to be ready in sufficient time to enable the Government to incorporate their recommendations in the budget of 1103, and that, since the Committee are unanimously of opinion that the pay of the lower subordinates of Government should be improved without undue delay, a lump allotment of one lakh of rupees be provided in the budget to give effect to the Committee's recommendations in this behalf. We have accordingly provided one lakh of rupees for utilisation when final orders are passed on the report to be received from the Committee.

Another provision that may require some explanation from me is that of Rs. 7,000 for the uplift of the depressed classes. Now that a Protector of the Depressed Classes has been appointed, various items of expenditure may have to be incurred by him besides the necessary staff, and hence the provision. Government are considering the details of the work in this connection, and my friend, the Member for Education, whois the Protector of the Depressed Classes will, when his turn comes, explain the whole scheme to the House.

Lastly, I would refer to our financial position at the end of 1103. The year 1102 which opened with a net surplus of

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